

The Claims

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Claim 1. (Previously Amended) Support material coated on at least one side with a synthetic resin, containing a raw paper provided at least on the front side with a pigment coating, wherein the synthetic resin is a polyolefin resin on the pigment coating, and wherein the pigment coating contains at least about 5% by weight of a pigment having particles with a narrow grain distribution with respect to the weight of the total pigment in the pigment layer, whereby at least about 70% by weight of the pigment particles have a size of less than about  $1\mu\text{m}$  and at least 40% by weight of the particles have a grain size of 0.35 to  $0.8\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 2. (Original) Support material according to claim 1, wherein the pigment is a calcium carbonate.

Claim 3. (Original) Support material according to claim 1, wherein the coating contains a pigment mixture which contains at least about 30 % by weight kaolin.

Claim 4. (Original) Support material according to claim 1, wherein the application weight of the coating amounts to a maximum of about  $20\text{ g/m}^2$ .

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Claim 5. (Original) Support material according to claim 1, wherein the raw paper is a slightly compressed paper with a density of less than about 1 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) Support material according to claim 1, ~~coated on at least one side with synthetic resin, containing a raw paper provided on at least the front side with a pigment coating, wherein the synthetic resin is a polyolefin resin on the pigment coating, and wherein the pigment coating contains calcium carbonate which has a surface modified by an inorganic substance in platelet shape.~~

Claim 7. (Previously Canceled)

Claim 8. (Previously Amended) Support material according to claim 6, wherein the proportion of the surface modified calcium carbonate pigment in the total amount of pigment amounts to at least about 5% by weight.

Claim 9. (Previously Canceled)

Claim 10. (Original) Support material according to claim 6, wherein the pigment coating contains a pigment mixture which contains at least about 30 % by weight of clay.

① Claim 11. (Original) Support material according to claim 8, wherein the application weight of the coating amounts to a maximum of about 20 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

Claim 12-14. (Previously Withdrawn)

Claim 15. (Previously Amended) Support material for an ink-jet recording sheet comprising a raw paper provided at least on the front side with a pigment coating, wherein the synthetic resin is a polyolefin resin on the pigment coating, and wherein the pigment coating contains at least about 5% by weight of a pigment having particles with a narrow grain distribution with respect to the weight of the total pigment in the pigment layer, whereby at least about 70% by weight of the pigment particles have a size of less than about 1 $\mu$ m and at least 40% by weight of the particles have a grain size of 0.35 to 0.8 $\mu$ m.

Claim 16. (Original) Support material according to claim 15, wherein the pigment is a calcium carbonate.

Claim 17. (Original) Support material according to claim 15, wherein the coating contains a pigment mixture which contains at least about 30 % by weight kaolin.

D Claim 18. (Original) Support material according to claim 15, wherein the application weight of the coating amounts to a maximum of about 20 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

Claim 19. (Previously Canceled)

Claim 20. (Previously Amended) Support material according to claim 15, wherein the calcium carbonate has a surface modified by an inorganic substance in platelet shape.

Claim 21. (Previously Added) Support material according to claim 1, wherein the synthetic resin is present in the amount of 5 to 30g/m<sup>2</sup>.

Claim 22. (Previously Added) The support material according to claim 6, wherein the synthetic resin is present in the amount of 5 to 30g/m<sup>2</sup>.

Claim 23. (Previously Added) The support material according to claim 15, wherein the synthetic resin is present in the amount of 5 to 30g/m<sup>2</sup>.

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Claim 24. (New) Support material according to claim 1, wherein the roughness of the paper with the pigment coating is 0.5μm or less.

Claim 25. (New) Support material according to claim 15, wherein the roughness of the paper with the pigment coating is 0.5μm or less.

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